MONTEREY NEWS

January 2011
VOLUME XLI · Number 1

The Town

This month's report was compiled by Laury Epstein from minutes of the Select Board meetings of November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20.

Fire Department

The Select Board questioned the $1250.00 payment to the Fire Department from the Park Commission for use of the pavilion from November through April. The board will ask Fire Chief Shawn Tryon and Maynard Forbes about this charge.

At the December 6th Select Board meeting, Shawn Tryon presented the Fire Department compensation budget, and noted that there have been forty-four calls so far this year, causing the department to spend $32,000 of its $60,000 budget in just five months. This is on track with last year,

Monterey Town Meeting, church basement, ca. 1955–1958: (l-r) Wallace Tryon (speaking), Kelly Janes, Marjorie Janes, Margaret White, Newman Abercrombie, Jared Thomson,Audrey Staples, Audrie Helmrich, Marion Schneider, Helen Shaw (peping), Helen MacKay, Ruth Angell, Otalie Pekrul. (Photo courtesy Linda Thorpe).

which had a $15,000 overrun. The Fire Department will only have Wednesday night trainings for the rest of the year. The Select Board suggested asking for the expected $15,000 overrun for this year at the special town meeting which will deal with the FY11 budget before the annual town meeting for the FY12 budget.

Tryon suggested that in the FY12 budget the compensation line item be raised to at least $78,000. Select Board Chairman Jonathan Sylbert stated that the Fire Department really needs to work out how it pays what to whom, how many people need to respond to calls, and how to keep the budget closer to the department's budget requests. Tryon responded that that the only way to handle the overruns is to have a budget big enough to handle the calls and payroll. He believes that the department would lose members if it is micromanaged. Sylbert stated that the board was suggesting that the number of personnel for medical calls typically differs from what is needed in case of fire.

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In terms of capital items for the Fire Department, Tryon will present an updated list to avoid surprise needs. He noted that Fire Engine 1 will need to be replaced in 2016. Rescue Vehicle 5 will need to be replaced sooner rather than later. All radios and pagers will need updating this year per FCC mandate. The department will be bidding out the sale of the 1992 truck and the 1987 army truck. The 1992 3500 will be replaced with the 2000 550 truck that was upgraded at the Highway Department.

Police Department

During December, the Police Department reported the following incidents:

- Suspicious activity investigated on Mt. Hunger Road.
- Tree across the wires on Fairview Road.
- Investigated a missing person report; person was later found.
- Assisted Great Barrington Police Department twice.
- Well-being checks on Brett Road, Mt. Hunger Road, Hupi Road, New Marlborough Road, Main Road.
- Complaint of a person illegally hunting on private property.
- Arrest made from a motor vehicle stop: speeding and an open container.
- Complaint on Mt. Hunger Road about a person hunting on private land without permission. Hunters were found and informed they couldn't hunt there.
- Animal call on Laurel Banks.
- Suspicious activity on Sandisfield Road (calls received).
- Assisted a citizen on Main Road.
- Suspicious activity on Blue Hill Road.
- Domestic disturbance on Fairview Road.

The Select Board requested more information from the Police Chief about such matters as the number of traffic stops. At the December 20th meeting, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported ten traffic stops in the week prior.

Highways and Operations

Maynard Forbes, Director of Operations, reported on the following activity for late November–mid December:

- Checking beaver ponds and culverts, replacing plugged culvert on Fairview Road.
- Picked up new truck in New Hampshire, had it inspected, and calibrated the sander.
- Installed gates on salt shed.
- Picked up trees on Main Road, Tyringham, Fairview, and Griswold.
- Patched potholes on Beartown, gravel and grade.
- Fixed problem of no heat at town hall. Furnace scheduled for a cleaning on 12/10/10.

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- The roof has been fixed at Bally Gally, but there is still a leak along the backside of the chimney showing up on the brick. The board agreed to try to have it sealed for the winter and see what the options are in the spring.
- Repair and replace blade on Osh Kish wing; repair application sensor and change blades on plow.
- 4500 taken to Richard Chevrolet for repair.
- New tires mounted on 550.

Forbes said Ormsbee's will park a bus that needs to be plugged in at the Highway Garage, and will pay for the electricity used.

Gould Farm requested a name change for a private road, from Sunset Rock Road to Barry Cosgrove Drive. The change was made over a year ago without Gould Farm informing the town, and the result was problems with deliveries. Forbes said that he would change the address in the 911 database. Town Counsel informed the Select Board that by law it has to approve the name change. A motion was made to accept the change which was seconded and approved. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart recused himself from the vote as he works for Gould Farm.

Glynis Marsh

New Marlborough Road after the December 26–27 snowstorm.

Finance Committee

Dan Moriarty and Michael Storch, representing the Finance Committee, told the Select Board that they have reviewed the reports provided by the Town Accountant and are comfortable with the status quo. The Finance Committee and Select Board discussed who should be responsible for salary requests for the Police Chief, Director of Operations, Building Commissioner, Town Accountant, and Inter-Departmental Secretary. All agreed that these should be handled by the Select Board, as the employees involved report directly to them. The potential school budget was also briefly discussed.

The Select Board wishes to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the town insurance policies and other vendors that may be able to offer a better price. It was confirmed that the soliciting of insurance is exempt from Chapter 30B *(exemption IB.12 of appendix A)*. It does not need to go out to bid; soliciting quotes is acceptable. At the board's request Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe investigated how long contracts can last: As per MGLC. 30B s. 12(b): *Unless authorized by majority vote, a procurement officer shall not award a contract for a term exceeding three years, including any renewal, extension, or option. Such authorization may apply to a*

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single contract or to any number or types of contracts, and may specify a uniform limit or different limits on the duration of any such contracts.

The Board also asked Noe to update the surrounding towns' salary and compensation packages survey for the Finance Committee and Select Board to use as they prepare the FY12 budget. Although no one feels strongly about changing the employee/town contribution for health insurance, the board would like to know about possible changes—what these would save the town, and what they would cost the employees.

Wilson-McLaughlin House

Joe Baker, Cynthia Weber, and Laurie Shaw of the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee addressed the Select Board about the renewal of the Wilson-McLaughlin House lease. The date for completing the driveway has been pushed back, a cause of concern to the committee. They also are concerned that funds for the driveway were approved for this FY, and wonder if they will still be available in the next fiscal year. The Select Board assured them that the funds would still be there.

The committee would like to see the driveway completed before the gardening season begins, not halfway through it, or later, and anticipates that there will be a need for handicap access for the community garden in 2011. The Select Board plans to speak with Director of Operations Forbes about the completion date before making any changes and/or approving the lease. They had just learned that the water line for Bally Gally goes under the location of the proposed driveway.

Changes were made to the Phase I proposal that includes projects in the next five years. Forbes requested that the lease contain language about the oil tank that is leaking and the subsequent need to remove it. Baker stated that five years ago a hazardous material outfit was hired and identified all the materials in the building that were hazardous, including the two tanks in the basement. In the spring the committee put out a notice for bids to remove them but there was no response. The ad was placed again with no response, so Tryon Construction was hired. Money has been raised for the removal and the work is scheduled to be done. The committee believes that in the "Assignment" section of the lease this issue was already addressed.

The Select Board requested that Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe send a draft copy of the lease to Town Counsel for review. Town Counsel did approve the lease, after which the board signed it. If Joe Baker approves it, he will sign it, too.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Lazzarini emailed the Select Board with suggestions for a zoning bylaw committee and their responsibilities in handling the zoning bylaw revisions. Although he suggested that the Select Board create a committee to study revisions, the board decided against that strategy.

The ZBA does not have a recommendation for the open position on its board. Melissa Noe will advertise the vacant seat in the January issue of the *Monterey News*. Letters of interest should go to the ZBA, which will interview interested applicants and then make a recommendation to the Select Board.

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This and That

Assessor Clerk Don Clawson told Sylbert that the commonwealth approved Monterey's tax rate as $5.28 effective November 24, 2010.

Town Accountant Steve Pullen notified the Select Board that he would reduce his vacation time from three weeks to two weeks because there is no backup for either him or the Town Treasurer. The Select Board replied that he could take three weeks if he so desired.

Monica Webb, representing Wired West, spoke to the Select Board about adding the following warrant article to a special town meeting warrant: *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services, or to take any other action relative thereto*. This is a binding article that 3 towns have passed already.

The Select Board approved the request from the Monterey General Store to renew its 2011 package store license. The appropriate paperwork will be sent to the ABCC for their approval.

Maggie Leonard, Planning Board Chair, addressed the Board about the drafts of the cell tower bylaws. Copies of them will be available to the public after Town Counsel reviews them. Then informational meetings will be scheduled, where copies of the proposed bylaws will be available. The Planning Board intends to have an informational meeting sometime in January (see related article, p. 6).

From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2011 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February 1, 2010. If you do not receive yours, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). The fourth-quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due May 2, 2011. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding personal property tax, assessments, and abatement applications to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, 413-528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessors' Office by February 1, 2011.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey Real Estate and Personal Property taxes online, an online payment option is now available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2011). MasterCard and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector

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Planning Board Working on Telecommunications Bylaw
Public Hearing Jan. 25

For the past several months the Planning Board has been working on revising our telecommunications bylaw. In 2010 our board was awarded a Technical Assistant grant from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) that provided us the services of Brian Domina, a lawyer with BRPC. Working with Brian, the Planning Board is seeking to create a bylaw that makes the possibility of cellular phone service an option for Monterey.

Our current bylaw, which was created in 1998, designated Mount Wilcox in Beartown State Forest as the sole location for cell towers in our town (stated in the bylaw as the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District—WTOD). Since that time we have learned that this location is not conducive to a cell tower for the following reasons: it is in the State Forest and there are regulatory headaches involved (our board was informed that it takes a ¾ vote of the legislature to get permission to site a tower in a State Forest); the location was too far from the population it is intended to serve; and the location is so remote that it would be prohibitively expensive to site a cell tower there. Therefore one of the main tasks for our board has been to educate ourselves on ways to site cell towers and provide cellular phone service while striving to protect the natural resources of the town.

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday January 25, 2011, at 7 pm at the Monterey Town Hall. We need citizens to attend this hearing and help us move Monterey forward to comply properly with the federal mandate for cell tower siting. The complete text of the bylaw is available at the Town Hall. We look forward to seeing you at the hearing.

— Maggie Leonard,
Monterey Planning Board

Intergenerational Discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*, Jan. 15

Please join us at the Monterey Library on Saturday, January 15, for an intergenerational discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. All ages are welcome! At 6:30 we will read the picture book *Listen To The Wind*. After that, the youth book group will host a discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*—the young reader's edition. This edition is appropriate for students in grades 4–7. At 7:30, the oldest youth book group will discuss *Three Cups of Tea*. Everyone grade eight and older is invited to join in this group. Tea and cookies will be shared.

We are pleased to host this evening in collaboration with the Stockbridge Library's Pennies For Peace Program. You may have already noticed the collection jar at the library- please bring your spare pennies in-everything will be donated to the Central Asia Institute's school-building programs. If you would like more information please contact Franny Huberman, 528-5414.

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Monterey Town Meeting, church basement, ca. 1955–1958: (l-r) Roland Tite, Hulda Westberg, Howard Wells, Harold Greene (speaking), Emil Schneider, unidentified (if any reader can identify this man, please send name to the editor and we will print it in next issue). (Photo courtesy Linda Thorpe.)

References available

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Jan. 19th Community Potluck: Andrew Cort on Contemporary Culture

The December Community Potluck was a rollicking affair, with dancing in the aisles and sing-alongs to the marvelous holiday tunes of Bittersweet. Many thanks to Sue Choquette and David Healey for their festive performance.

For the January 19th potluck dinner, we have Dr. Andrew Cort from Tyringham. He is an author, attorney, doctor of chiropractic and teacher whose work encompasses religion, spirituality, mythology, politics, history, science, and healing. He will speak on how these all relate to meaning and purpose in contemporary American culture.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm on January 19. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome. Happy New Year!

— Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

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Brush Burning Rules And Regulations

Burn Season Opens Jan. 15

Each year, the Commonwealth allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshal's Office, DEP and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734**.
- Residents must call the Fire Department on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m., and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable.
- Have a method of extinguishment available.
- Never leave the fire unattended for any reason.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day, at the discretion of the Fire Chief.
- You can be fined for burning without a permit.
- Don't wait until the end of April; you will be disappointed if you wait till the last minute. April can be dry, and open burning can be prohibited at any time.
- Burning season will not be extended.
- Make sure you call for a permit at 528-1734 and leave your name, the address where you are burning, and a phone number.

— Maynard Forbes, Assistant Chief
Monterey Fire Department

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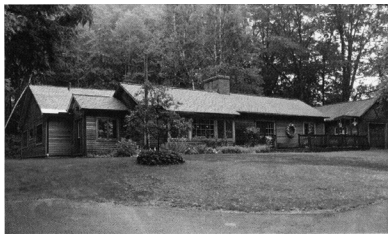

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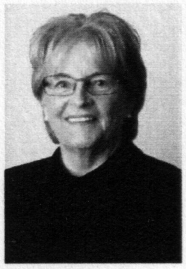

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December Wildlife Report:
Lions, Turkeys and Everything

Elizabeth Maschmeyer writes from Otis, beside the Farmington River, that she has seen a mink on December 9, right on the bank of the river. It was smaller and slimmer than an otter and she has also seen one in the same spot in the spring, in the very early morning, both the spring and winter sightings.

Steve Snyder writes that Stephen Enoch saw a bald eagle on December 29, flying over Main House at Gould Farm.

Down on New Marlborough Road, Hannah Jacobson-Hardy saw a big hawk fly off from her chicken yard in mid-December. She went over and saw broad wing tracks in the snow, about a four-foot span and an inch or so between marks left by the primary feathers on the wings. A look in the reference books and a chain of confirming phone calls around town reveal that this was a goshawk. (We should say that it *is* a goshawk, whereas there *was* a chicken.)

Maureen Banner on Griswold Road put corn on the ground under her birdfeeder to make the squirrels happy. A herd of turkeys came to eat up the corn (photo), so they were the happy ones.

Now the big mammals: Renee D'Angelo saw a big moose in the side yard of John's Auto Body on Route 23. She (the moose) was headed for Beartown and seemed to have some white on her hide. The D'Angelos also saw a "huge catlike animal" with a long tail, by full moonlight, crossing Tyringham Road. It cleared the road in "two loping leaps."

Maureen Banner

Noel Wicke has also seen a big cat with a long tail. This was in early December about 6:30 pm near Butternut. Noel was driving home from Great Barrington and saw a large caramel-colored animal with a "long, graceful, smooth tail and a very muscular back end." This cat turned and looked back at the road, full-face, giving a clear view. Noel has photographed wildlife in Africa and describes this huge cat as looking "exactly like a leopard without spots." Noel, who has seen big wild cats before, was "awestruck" by this Berkshire mountain lion, a miraculous moment in her life, and decided to share it with us, her neighbors.

Thanks, all of you. Call or write to me with your sightings, no creature too miraculous or too small.

— Bonner McAllester
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Reflections from the Bidwell House

It's snowy, quiet, and beautiful at the end of Art School Road now. As the year comes to a close, I want to thank you for supporting the Bidwell House Museum in its twentieth-anniversary year. It was great to have so many of you join us for walks, lectures, workshops, and other programs. The community events, Township No. 1 Day and the Pumpkin Fest, were a wonderful success, thanks to you.

The Bidwell House is your community's museum, and the museum would like to offer programs for all generations to enjoy and learn more about the land and history of your beautiful town. The museum is working on programs for next summer and fall right now. If there is a topic, workshop. or activity that would interest you, please let me know. I would be happy to try to work on new program ideas!

Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers and donors—the museum could not exist without you! I am grateful for your tremendous generosity with both your time and your resources.

The house is closed for the winter, but the grounds are open, and you are invited to take a walk or go snowshoeing every day. Best wishes for the New Year!

—Barbara Palmer, Bidwell House Museum Executive Director

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Free Movie on Cellular Technology Issues Jan. 8

The first showing in December of the free movie *Full Signal* attracted an intimate group due to the weather. We hope to see more local residents of Monterey, in particular, at our next showing January 8, 2011 at 7:30 pm. The film is 61 minutes long.

At the December showing, we had a lively, informal, discussion following the movie about Wi-Fi radiation exposure, as well as, cell tower placement concerns.

Please take the time to see this important film. It is not a pleasant topic, but a necessary one, due to the higher radiation exposure we will be exposed to as a result of the planned rollout of more towers in our town. The next technology to impact and add even higher levels of radiation pollution will be the Smart Meter technology.

We must all get involved in order to better understand the impact this will have on us, our wildlife and most importantly, our children.

Since 1997 and the onset of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) telephony, more and more cellular antennas have been popping up in neighborhoods around the world to support an ever-growing number of cell-phone users.

In fact they have become so prolific in some parts of the world that they disappear into the landscape with the same subtlety as cars on the street. And those that don't "disappear" are cleverly disguised as chimneys, flagpoles, or water towers.

Full Signal features interviews with scientists around the world who are researching the health effects related to cellular technology, with veteran journalists who have called attention to the issue for decades, with activists who are fighting to regulate the placement of antennas, and with lawyers and lawmakers who represent the people wanting those antennas regulated.

Filmed in ten countries and six U.S. states, *Full Signal* examines the contradiction between health and finance, one of the many ironies of the fight to regulate antenna placement.

— Sandra Chianfoni

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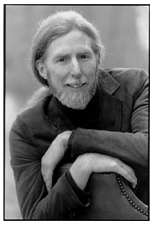

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Exhibition of Julie Shapiro's Paintings in NYC

The work of Monterey artist Julie Shapiro will be shown as part of a two-person exhibition, *Thought Patterns: Julie Shapiro & Rachael Wren*, from January 4–29, 2011, at The Painting Center, 547 W. 27th Street, 5th floor, New York City. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2011, from 6–8 pm.

Visually and conceptually distinct but with a range of common concerns, the work of Rachael Wren and Julie Shapiro sets up an exciting dialog in this exhibition. Both painters explore qualities of the natural world through the language of geometric abstraction. Though neither Wren nor Shapiro works from the landscape in a mimetic sense, the phenomena and experiences they find there are essential in the conception of their images. Their work is linked by a belief that it is the interrelationships, rather than the things themselves, that are important. Both Shapiro's and Wren's paintings are crafted in layers, and unfold for their viewers in layers as well.

Julie Shapiro received her BA in art from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1972 and her MFA in painting/printmaking from the Yale School of Art in 1980. In the summer of 1976 she attended the Yale Summer School of Art, Norfolk, Connecticut. Shapiro has had numerous exhibitions around the country—her work has been shown at Elizabeth Harris Gallery, NYC, Lenore Gray Gallery, Providence, RI, the Drawing Center, NYC, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA and Milwaukee Institute of Art, among others. She is currently represented by Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, and Wendt Gallery, NYC and Laguna Beach, where she has had solo exhibitions. Shapiro has taught at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, and has been a Visiting Artist at numerous colleges. She has received several awards, including a Pollock Krasner Foundation grant in 1989. Her work is included in numerous collections throughout the country.

Maureen Banner

Although Shapiro does not look to the landscape as a direct reference, in it she finds experiences and relationships that are an intrinsic source for her work. Among these are the alteration of color and light through time, the association of vertical and horizontal intervals, the distance between forms and their relativity to scale, the cycle of cluster to interstice to matrix as the seasons change, and the nuance of variation within the geometry of form or growth.

A full color catalog with an essay by Marshall Price, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Academy Museum, accompanies the exhibit.

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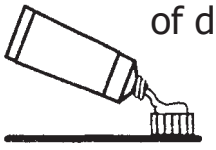

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Route 23 Monterey

Patmos: The Monastery of St. John

We touch the icons
secretly in the slanting haze
standing among the whispers
others left
images one kisses
teach one to love life

we search the faint, strained faces
of Nicholas, Mary and John,
their severity and grandeur
by the scent of beeswax and myrrh,
the old worked silver of the frames
pewtered by time and prayer
faces of dignity, pity, faces of pride
in sorrow
the lamps are hung on
triple brass chains
hushed before the many-imaged screen,
almost a sacred chessboard
perpendicular to chance
withered flowers
in crevices tuck away a gratitude
for something past
a fly at the window
buzzes at the now
that screen
separates the living somehow
from life
and either ventricle, the secular
beats for the sacred, and the sacred
beats for the commonplace
it is a great mystery
this devotion dances
the quintessence of crimson;
this chapel is like an enclosed heart
pulsing for the world
outside is the distant fragrance of the sea
and blue-lit spaces,
beauty cobbled up and down
white pierced by cypresses
death struck down by daily suns
and calendars of faith requited
we climb Patmos
the women smile
the cocks crow
the donkeys bray
the old men ride astride wooden chairs, smoking.

I love your breathing
and the soft sound of your shoes
on the rippling stone steps
we climb
up that honeycomb of cornered whites
to the roof and belfry
to where no events are
troubled by explanations
standing in tears
at the parapets of reason
at this blue edge of time
trying to explain —
things get blown away, blown away
to risk the flesh
to purity, to light!

tears with no explanations
shatter into splinters of air
all clarity and no defenses
the chapel beats below the feet
like a reminding heart,
it takes in the spectrum of breath
to feed its inner sun
if I opened your body
like the body of the world
it would have a red heart, also
full of icons I could kiss

together we go down again to the white chapel,
we enter like foreign substances
into the auricles of faith.

— A. O. Howell

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Roma

She wore a knit hat,
red polyester dress
and work boots, laced to the ankle.

We shared meals
at the Fireside Table,
brussel sprouts, spaghetti and ham
in square silver pans.

Each evening she'd play—
plastic tiles tumbling to the table.

When my family grows restless
I open a bag like PIC,
asking them to believe
in the three-toed sloth.

How many she healed, through
a game of just showing up.
Night after night,
the alchemy of routine.

Sometimes we lose sight
of a person's influence, until
savoring a teabag
for more than one cup.

In darkness, I'd walk her home-
lamplight reflecting off the pond.

Past the bridge, looping her arm
in mine, she'd whisper;
"Promise you'll call, tell me you're
safely home."

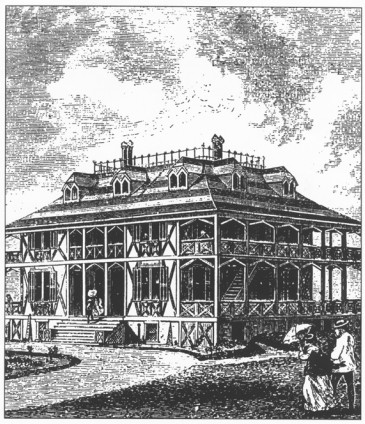
Only a stone's throw to Main House
my hand rattled
with crumpled candy,
a gift from her fridge.

Last night, the phone rang—
with silence on the line.
Suddenly, I was back
in the Main House nursing office,
waiting for her call.

Perhaps in silence was her message,
to set our own table
with napkin rings
and prayer.

Pausing to remember-
she's made it
safely home.

— M. Hamilton



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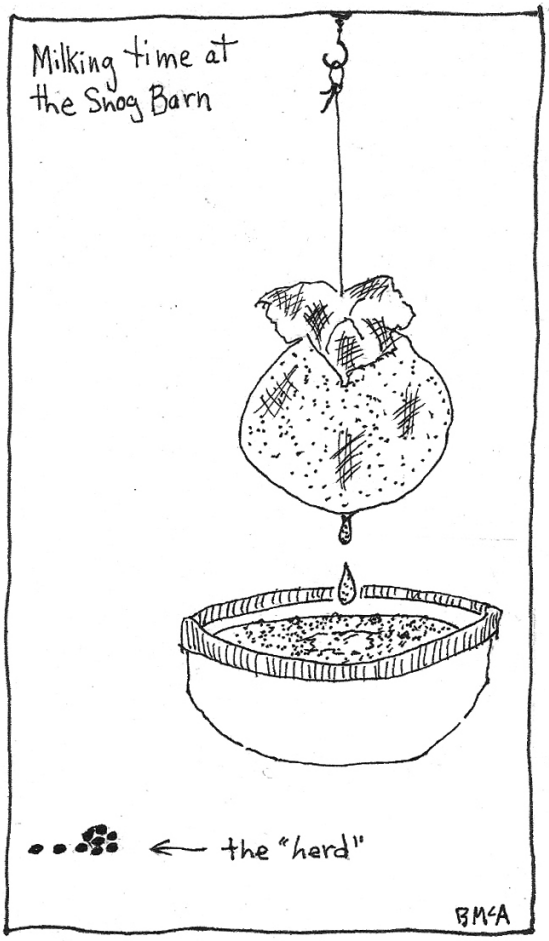
Yosoy and Snog, after 25 years of Goat Dairy

My ancestor here, Stephen Keyes, was a dairy farmer. So was his son George, known to us as Dad Keyes. I know from family correspondence that Dad Keyes worked long days and only had time for a little letter writing. I have always pictured him working the farm from dawn to dark, moving the cows up and down the hill, milking them, doctoring them. I know he used barbed wire to keep the cows in because remnants are still rusting in our woods, some following old stone walls.

As a kid I romanticized farming and Dad Keyes, whom I never met. I hung out in the old barn, picturing big animals there, warm and reasonable, with patient eyes. I could practically smell them and feel them. Farming was always my plan because you could be outdoors much of the time and in the barn the rest of the time, and those big animals would be your smells and feels. I wished Dad Keyes were still around, even though he was not a man who wrote much. My own immediate parents had that department aced, but they were not farmers.

I grew up and became a dairy farmer, but my barn was small and so were my animals. They were goats! Still, I got to spend much of my time outdoors or in the barn, and the goats were warm. I used to sit milking, thinking about Dad Keyes and the cows. I took the goat milk to the kitchen and made things: butter, cheese, yogurt, and eggnog at Christmas. It sounds easy and like it would be fun, but there is quite a chore element in these homestead concoctions. We joke about it and say, "The hard part was clearing the land." That's true, but washing all the bits and pieces of the cream separator was tedious, also the butter churn, the cheesecloths, the wooden follower for pressing hard cheese. And when we made yogurt we put the jars in our down booties for incubation, so inevitably we got milky footgear out of the deal and another washing challenge.



I'm not complaining about dairy farming, I'm just saying I can see why Dad Keyes didn't have much time for writing letters. What with fence building, barn roof repairs, hoof trimming, and all the clean-up chores it's amazing he wrote at all. And we have to remember that the hard part was . . . clearing the land. Done before his time.

One day our dairy farming was over. The children were grown and gone, and one of us grownups had gone off dairy totally. We discovered we got along fine without milk, cheese, yogurt, and all that list of edibles. We got along even better without all the kitchen chores, but then along came Christmas and the lack of eggnog.

Our scientists researched soymilk. We planted little black soybeans that mature quickly (104 days) and got a good crop. One bed three by twenty-one feet filled two gallon jars with pretty black beans and we were ready to make milk. An old vegetarian cookbook, *Laurel's Kitchen*, taught us how to make a quart and a half of milk out of one cup of soybeans, and pretty soon we were back in the traces in the kitchen. We revived the cheesecloths from our goat-cheese days and went to work. Pretty soon

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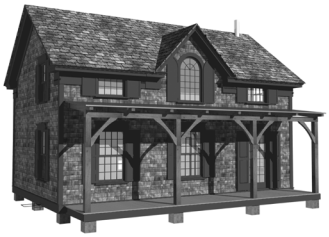

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we were good at milking the bean. We had some trouble getting friends and relations to take a sip because our black soybeans make milk which is pale gray. Most folks like milk to be white, we found out.

The milk makes good yogurt, too, which we dubbed "yo soy." I couldn't find the old down booties, so we use our small lunch-sized picnic cooler with a couple of jars of hot water in it to keep everything up to temperature. There's a pint of inoculated milk sitting next to those hot-water jars and after eight hours we lift out a jar of tangy gray yo soy. I like it, and the rest of the family knows they shouldn't complain when all they have to do is close their eyes, since it tastes fine.

Now we come to the eggnog. We do still have chickens, and though they lay eggs from time to time, it is never at Christmastime. Our research team found a recipe for the seasonal beverage that has transcended eggs. We called it "soy nog," at first, and have now settled on "snog." It has a little maple syrup, a little nutmeg and turmeric, and the recipe suggests a fair amount of brandy, also tofu. We have found in this, our first snog season, that the drink is great (best) without the tofu, but that brandy can be quite a good thing.

I'll toast the Keyes dairy farmers with my homegrown snog. I don't know if they made eggnog, but I bet there was no yogurt in the kitchen. Things have changed a little here and there on the place, but we still tap the sugar maples and hang up the cheesecloths, and sometimes when I am squeezing soy milk through the hanging cloth bag I think it's a little like milking the goats, watching that smooth liquid hit the pail.

Actually, in case you can't tell, I miss the goats, and it's not just because their milk was more the color you expect. They were a lot of work, but it was work I liked and the hard part (which was . . . you know what) was way behind us. I miss the goats because being fellow mammals they were to me more engaging than a soybean plant. I do love a sprouting legume, but a goat kid on the hillside in spring, leaping off a rock with a side-twist and a buck, is another brand of miracle.

Maybe some dairy-farming descendant will be fussing with her goats or cows one day, tripping over the fencing, totting up the feed bills. She'll muse about the good old days of yo soy and snog and wonder if it is possible to go back to the earlier simpler life. There's only one way to find out. And you'll have time to write to the grandkids about it because soy dairy won't eat up your time so bad. I just can't promise anyone will keep a box of your terse, abbreviation-filled emails up in the attic along with Dad Keyes' letters in their handsome script.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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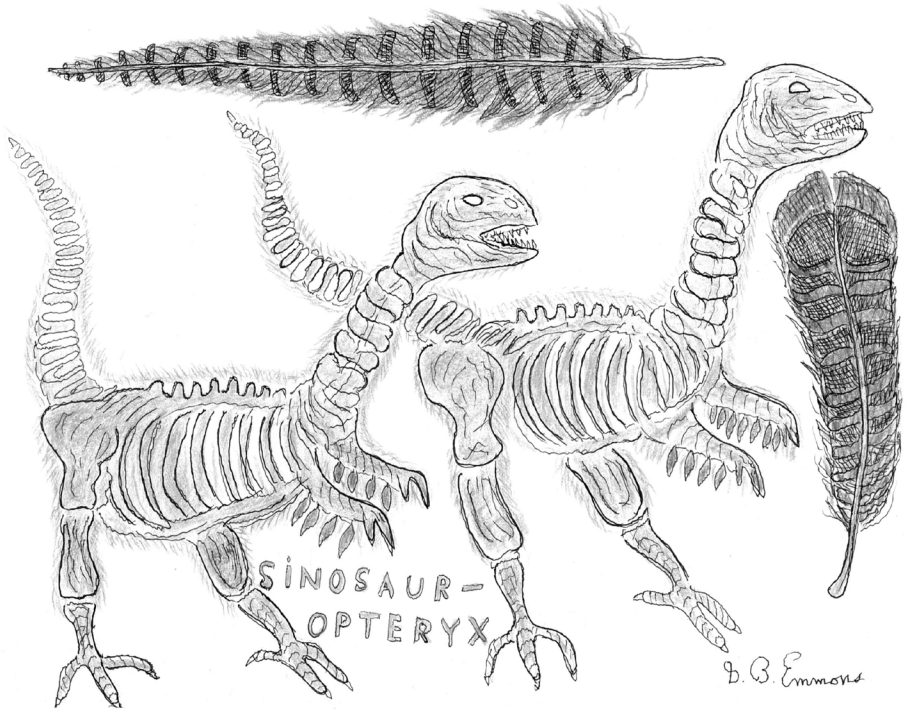
Birds of a Feather



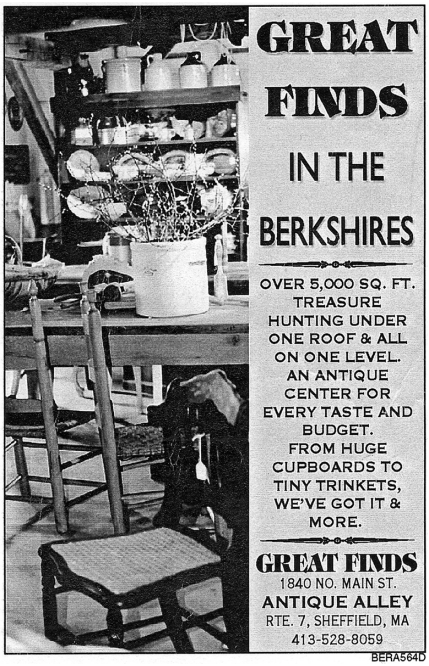
The above ancient proverb is a well-known quotation today that usually ends in "flock (or fly) together." Actually the saying is more than four hundred years old, dating back to a 1599 publication of a Spanish and English dictionary compiled by a lexicographer as meaning that people of the same interest will gather together. However, for wild birds gathering together is a matter of survival, because for them there is safety in numbers to avoid being eaten by predators.

The extraordinary variety of feathers on birds has a common function in the ability to retain body heat, repel water, attract a mate, and enable flight, even though some species, such as the penguin and ostrich, cannot fly. Still the size, shape, habits, and movement of species enables us to identify them. The Audubon Society also clarifies groups of feathers by color and arrangement on the body. The mantle above the head, patches of markings called scapulas, as well as well-defined progressive bars toward the end of the wings are important.

Most recently feathers found on prehistoric fossils, featured in the December issue of Smithsonian Magazine, positively connect many kinds of birds worldwide to a common line of ancestors, also classified as dinosaurs. One notable specimen found in China is the first well-preserved evidence of a feathered dinosaur that has been named Sinosauropteryx. Scientists can see traces of cell structures that contain pigments and patterns of primitive feather growth. Similar varieties of non-avian fossils had been previously found to be no larger than today's wild turkey.

Most of us in Monterey who consider ourselves ardent bird watchers find great pleasure looking out our picture windows at gatherings around our bird feeders. Against a colorless background of ice and snow, the excitement of birds suddenly gathering in a feeding frenzy in advance of an approaching storm front is a living example of the ancient proverb, right before our very eyes. Sometimes the appearance of cardinals in flaming scarlet plumage lights up our spirits, even as the sunlight of the season dims into a long winter's night, and we are thankful for the survival of species.

— George B. Emmons



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Nonprofit Salary Survey Released

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has announced that the report *Valuing Our Nonprofit Workforce 2010: A Compensation Survey of and for Nonprofits in Massachusetts and Adjoining Communities* has been released and is available on the foundation's website at berkshiretaconic.org/nonprofits. The report provides a first glimpse at comprehensive data on pay for staff at small to medium sized nonprofit organizations in the area. Third Sector New England (TSNE), a nonprofit support organization, worked with partners including Berkshire Taconic to survey 202 nonprofits across Massachusetts and bordering communities in New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. More than 30,000 are employed by the nonprofit organizations that completed the survey. Data was compiled on over 24,000 individual salaries, and these were categorized into the 131 job titles.

"A central component of our mission is to support area nonprofits in their good work," said Berkshire Taconic president Jennifer Dowley. "Nonprofit employees comprise a critical component of the economy and are doing some of our region's most important work—holding the fabric of our communities together. This survey will give organizations benchmarks on compensation to help them make fair and informed compensation decisions."

The survey was conducted in response to frequent requests from nonprofit executive directors, board members and consultants for compensation data. Prior to the release of *Valuing Our Nonprofit Workforce*, few of the salary surveys available were specific to small to medium sized nonprofit organizations.

Median household income in Massachusetts was $64,081 in 2009, according to a September 2010 report from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. However, the median income for a number of nonprofit staff and management positions cited in the *Valuing Our Nonprofit Workforce 2010* survey was far below this figure. The survey finds that the average salary for junior level assistants and receptionists in the nonprofit sector is just over $25,000. Organizers and preschool teachers average just $30,000. Executive directors at nonprofits with budgets under $1 million dollars average only $60,000.

Summary of Findings

- On average, male executive directors/CEOs earn significantly higher pay than their female counterparts. The average annual salary for all executive directors/CEOs in the sample is $107,256. For men, the average pay is $126,247, and for women, the average is $89,271.
- While a majority (54 percent) of all executive directors/CEOs in the sample are women, a relatively greater number of men are found in the executive directors/CEOs positions of the largest organizations, which tend to pay higher salaries.
- Twenty-four percent of the executive directors/CEOs represented in the survey have an employment contract. Sixty-nine percent hold master's degrees or doctorates.
- Many participating nonprofits use more than one method to grant salary increases. Merit or performance pay was cited by 39 percent, cost of living by 35 percent and other practices by 10 percent.
- However, only 58 percent of participating organizations have salary increases budgeted in their current fiscal year, undoubtedly a reflection of continuing economic uncertainty.
- Only 15 organizations (7 percent) reported that they have union contracts for one or more of their positions. The types of positions are varied, including professional and non-exempt ones.

Third Sector New England helps fellow nonprofit organizations manage more effectively so they can better meet their mission to support strong, inclusive communities.

Since 1987, Berkshire Taconic has managed a growing collection of charitable funds created by individuals, families and businesses. Each year, the foundation distributes over $7 million through grants and scholarships for programs in the arts and education, health and human services and environmental protection, helping thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work.

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My Christmas Traditions

I wrote my first column for the *Monterey News* just over five years ago. Approximately sixty columns later, I have the occasional bout of writer's block—and then, as if by chance, some topic comes to mind. One thing I've learned is that quiet self-reflection always comes through. Christmas was for me, I wrote a few years ago, not about religion. That article's context was my trip to Germany, a country where the roots of religious tradition run deep. When I was younger, Christmas excitement revolved around goodies, presents, and parties. Now that I'm older and live a more diverse life, Christmas is more profound—subconsciously it is actually about tradition.

I embrace the dependable predictability that accompanies the Christmas season as it envelops me in a cocoon of certainty often absent in my chaotic life. When I returned home last week, preparations for our annual office party were in full swing, the first of the traditional Christmas festivities. On a chilly brisk winter day, a trio set off from Rawson Brook Farm in search of a Christmas tree—my mother, the dog and myself. Having misplaced my winter boots, I was wearing my mother's old treadless snow sneakers, and I am proud to announce I only fell down two or three times. This year, our tree flaunts a ridiculous Dr. Seuss–like quality proudly, tamed only slightly by its adornment in strings of lights.

Decorating the tree is a time-honored tradition involving a fire in the fireplace, our favorite Christmas music, a stepladder, lots of ornaments, and, now that I'm old enough, something delicious to drink—this year homemade margaritas. Jimmy Buffet would be proud. The dog chews on her bone, and we wind on the lights; the cardboard holders still bear my father's handwriting. Next, the red shiny orbs that my mom finally relented and let me get when I was about nine (I shudder to think of how much I begged for those). Simultaneously, Mom hangs the delicate glass icicles she purchased at Ward's Nursery about ten years ago. The light dances as it hits the shiny surfaces. We're now ready for our box of decorations, wrapped in newspaper from the past twenty years—ever wonder what was playing at the Triplex in 1996? I could probably tell you.

What I love about our tree is that almost every ornament contains a memory; very few things on our tree lack personal significance. There are round orbs from my travels: Ely Cathedral (UK, '03), Windsor Castle (UK, '07), and hand-blown glass from Mt. St. Helen's ash (Washington State, '04). There's a beautiful pair of glass ballet slippers from Chris Hobbie, who used to work at the farm—they came with a "from the tooth fairy" card. My first ornament is a white glob of baked ornament dough covered in paint; needless to say, my mom really appreciates this one. There are ornaments from China that my mom's uncle brought back from his work over there, the nest made of buck goat hair some fifteen years ago that still retains its' powerful smell. My mom has little delicate tomato ornaments that speak to her love of gardening. I have two ornaments I got to pick off the tree at my orthodontist's office when I had braces years ago. It's unspoken who gets to hang what in many cases—if I unwrap one of Mom's memories, she hangs it; it goes both ways.

Christmas Eve, while maintaining a certain level of discretion concerning family life, is another favorite tradition of mine. In my childhood, Kay and Welles hosted the festivities at the family home in New Marlboro. As the oldest of the grandchildren, my memories are the most vivid: the tree with big blue bulbs (a 70s thing?), the array of presents, my grandmother cooking up a feast, the blessing my grandfather gave prior to the meal—not religious but heartfelt, his head bowed and eyes closed—and then the sorting and festive opening of presents while Welles would often put a bow on his head to amuse us. In the years just before and after Kay and Welles passed,

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the festivities moved between the homes of the next generation. However, when my aunt and uncle renovated and moved into the family home, suddenly the tradition righted itself and blazed stronger than ever in the old familiar setting.

The subtle changes over the years are welcome ones, while other things are steadfast in presence. My uncle, not always one for tradition, embraced the request (or outcry perhaps) that my cousin and I made for a tree. When we arrived that first year back in the traditional location, we discovered he had even bought new, but identical, blue lights—I was reduced to watery eyes. The significance of Christmas gained new dimensions that year. My uncles occasionally wear the bows on their heads, we still eat the shrimp cocktail as a treat around the dinner table, and there is always the time-honored ice-cream roll for desert. It is a rare time when we are all together as a family, and we're back in the same house, albeit far more colorful and artistically decorated. One can only imagine Kay and Welles smiling down on us from somewhere, and at times, I still feel their spirit nearby.

My heart always lifts as I anticipate our drive over the North Road, and I always hope we have snow that night to create the magical effect. I've noticed that as the holiday approaches, I find myself regressing rapidly at least ten to fifteen years. I love feeling like a child again, but even as I get all "geed" up, I also recognize with my adult perspective that the reasons for my excitement are different. It is about family and tradition, community and festivity, comfort and belonging.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with joy and peace.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Remembering Tom and Kathleen Gillis

My family has received the *Monterey News* from the very first issue. Although we've moved around quite a bit, we've always looked forward to catching up on the town's "goings on." It's with sadness though that I'm writing in for the first time to send a small remembrance of my parents, Tom and Kathleen Gillis. I think they would have liked this, and it's a way to get the word out to friends they haven't seen in some years now.

Tom and Kathleen were both from nearby Westfield, Massachusetts. They met in the Westfield ski club and were married in 1959. Kathleen had been coming to Monterey since the early 1940s, when her family purchased cottage property on Lake Garfield. With the help of family, Tom and Kathleen purchased a lovely historic farm on New Marlboro Road and called it "Brookmead Farm." They stayed there until the late 1970s, balancing a variety of jobs "in town" with farm life, raising sheep, then beef cattle, maple syrup, and hay. Kathleen taught business classes at Mount Everett High School. Tom was a member of the Monterey Conservation Commission and in the early 1970s, led a successful opposition to a proposed widening or bypass of Route 23 that would damage the charm and character of the town. The controversy was documented in the August 28th, 1972, issue of *Newsweek* magazine.

They moved to south Florida in 1979 for the ocean and tropics, but soon missed rural New England life and moved right back to Monterey in 1986. Tom hand-built a craftsman-styled home on Harmon Road. He served as the alternate Building Inspector for some time and truly enjoyed his small construction business, doing building projects, renovations, and remodeling in and around Monterey.

The draw of their only child, daughter Karen, brought them back to Florida in 2003. They purchased a pecan farm and historic house in Alachua, in the north-central part of the state near Karen's work at the University of Florida. They stayed busy with farming, gardening, and tinkering. In 2008–09, Tom built Karen a beautiful little house on their farm so she could be close by.

Tom was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2009 and died at his home August 2, 2010. In October, Kathleen and Karen, along with Karen's partner, Dave Shell, brought Tom's ashes up to Prince Edward Island, where Tom spent much of his childhood. Shortly after the trip, Kathleen developed serious heart-related problems and died December 5, 2010.

Both missed Monterey very much and had many fond remembrances of friends and family there.

— Karen Gillis, Alachua, Florida

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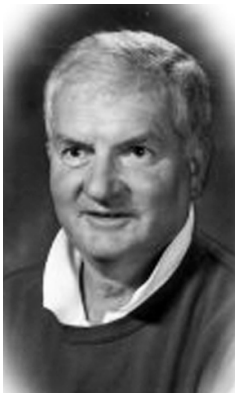


Remembering Bob Gauthier

Robert Michael Gauthier, 72, of Monterey and Plaice Cove, New Hampshire died Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at Berkshire Medical Center after a short illness. Bob was a lifelong educator, a national soccer official, and politically active in local affairs. He was also known to all that knew him as the unofficial ambassador to the Southern Berkshires, frequently holding office hours at both Berkshire South Regional Community Center and Price Chopper.

Born in Greenfield, Massachusetts on March 10, 1938, son of Alfred and Lucy Edes Gauthier, Bob was educated at Holy Trinity School and Greenfield High School, where he was active in school sports and class government. Bob was a 1961 graduate of St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, with a B.A. in History and Government. After graduating, Bob enlisted in the Air Force National Guard in New Hampshire and was honorably discharged in 1966 as a Staff Sergeant from Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Bob's teaching career started in Henniker, New Hampshire, in 1961 and continued in 1964 at Southern Berkshire Regional School District as a teacher of government and history. Bob was active in school government and coached both varsity baseball and golf. Deeply committed to improving education for all students, he continued his own education, receiving his Master's in Education from the University Massachusetts-Amherst in 1989.

As a soccer official, Bob was considered to be one of the most active officials in Berkshire County. He officiated at the high school, prep school and collegiate levels and served as a national assessor for the New England Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association.

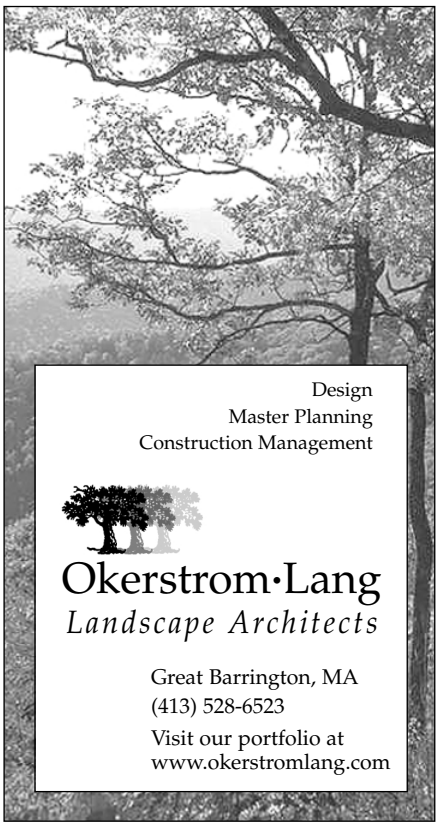
In Monterey, Bob was always involved in change and improvement through town politics. He was elected as a member of the town select board in 1969 and served for five years. He was also elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals in 1991 and the Board of Assessors in 2003 and continued up to the time of his death.

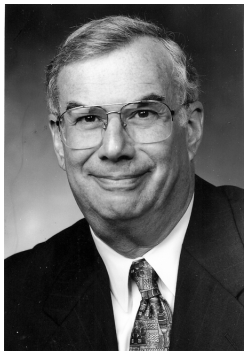
After a thirty-seven-year career in education, Bob retired from SBRSD, and he and his wife, Barbara, shared their time between Monterey and Plaice Cove. Keeping fit and active, Bob was known to bike twenty miles a day and work out on a daily basis in the gym. He took great joy in spending time with his grandchildren fishing for brook trout, walking on the beach, and he always found the time to watch them play sports.

Bob leaves his wife of fifty years, Barbara Armstrong; his daughter, Pamela, and her husband, Tom, of Great Barrington; sons Jim from Boston, David from Monterey, Jeffrey and his wife, Nancy, from Dover, NH; and four grandchildren, Henri, Parker, Jack, and Mackenzie.

In keeping with his embrace of educational values and his pursuit of knowledge, Bob has donated his body to the University of Vermont Medical School.

In lieu of flowers, Bob requested that any donations be made to the Robert Michael Gauthier Memorial Scholarship Fund through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories, and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.





Remembering Leonard Simon

Leonard S. Simon, former CEO of Rochester Community Savings Bank and RCSB Financial, Inc., died of cancer at his home in Monterey on December 24, 2010, at the age of 74.

Mr. Simon served as Vice Chairman of Charter One Financial, Inc., for four years and Chief Executive Officer of RCSB Financial, Inc., from 1984–1997. During his tenure at the bank he oversaw the acquisition of RCSB Financial by Charter One Financial, Inc.

Mr. Simon was previously a trustee of the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association (from 1982 - 2004) and Chairman of its Investment Committee. He was a director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and also served as a director and board chair of the Community Preservation Corporation, a New York City–based organization which develops affordable housing. Throughout his banking career he was active in the New York State Bankers Association, heading many committees, particularly those concerned with banking legislation, and he often spoke before legislative committees on both the state and national levels.

Before entering the banking industry, Mr. Simon was a professor at the University of Rochester's William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. He was the author of over twenty journal articles and two books about business and economics and editor for the academic journal *Interfaces* from 1970 to 1976.

His civic activities in the Rochester area included Chairman of the Board of the American Red Cross of Rochester, Rochester Area Educational Television Association (public TV), a vice-chairman of The United Way of Rochester, among many other community activities.

Mr. Simon was born October 28,1936, in New York City. His parents were Nathaniel Simon and Lena Pasternack Simon, DDS. He graduated from Blair Academy in Blairstown, NJ, in 1954, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1958 with a B.S. in Business and Engineering Administration, and received both an M.S. (1959) & Ph.D. (1963) from Columbia University.

After retiring to the Berkshires in 2001, Mr. Simon, along with his wife Marion, became founding members of the Volunteers in Medicine Berkshire (VIM) clinic providing free healthcare services to people living and working in the Berkshire region who lack medical insurance. He served as a trustee of that organization and as its treasurer. Mr. Simon enjoyed advising and investing in start-up and early stage companies and was an active partner in the Berkshire Opportunity Fund. Among his particular interests was hiking with the Monday Mountain Boys and skiing in Utah and Colorado with his family. He had a keen interest in the theater, classical music, and contemporary American art.

Besides his wife Marion of Monterey, Massachusetts, Mr. Simon is survived by his sons, Jonathan and Andrew (and their wives, Jeanine & Patrice) of New York City, and grandchildren Ethan and Luke.

A memorial service was held at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough, MA, on Tuesday, December 28, 2010. Donations may be made in his memory to Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires, 777 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230 or online at www.vimberkshires.org.

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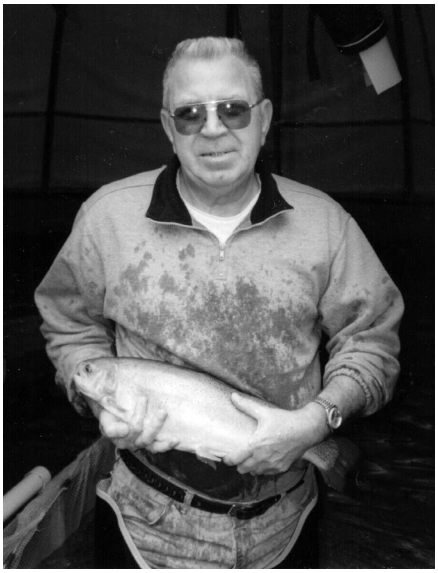

Remembering LeRoy Thorpe

LeRoy E. Thorpe of 427 Main Road in Monterey died Friday, December 3, 2010 at Berkshire Medical Center after being stricken early in the day at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.

He was born in Pine Plains, New York, March 15, 1936, to the late Henry and Edna Ostrander Thorpe. He attended Pine Plains Central School, where he played football, basketball, volleyball, and softball and graduated with the class of 1956.

LeRoy served in the U.S. Army Airborne Division and had many jumps to his credit, including parachuting behind enemy lines in Korea, where he received one of two Purple Hearts. Following his military service, he moved to Monterey. He was employed by Kimberly Clark/Schweitzer-Mauduit for 37 years, retiring in 1997. He was an officer with the Monterey Police Department from 1963 until 1978. He coached Monterey Yankees Little League for 25 years. He was a member of The Izaak Walton League of America and served on its National Board of Directors for many years. He also served various Town Boards in Monterey. He was an avid candlepin bowler in local leagues. In recent years he had dedicated his energies to reviving the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery through the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation.

Survivors include his wife, the former Linda Chamberlin; two children, Michael Thorpe of Housatonic and Tish Thorpe of Monterey; two grandchildren, Michael Thorpe Jr. and Cody Funk; two brothers, Clifford and Richard Thorpe of Pine Plains, NY; two nieces, Carol Anne and Anne of New York State. He was predeceased by a sister, Anita Divine, and two brothers, Henry Thorpe Jr. and Donald.

A Celebration of Life was held Thursday, December 9, 2010. Burial will be private with Military Honors at a later date. The family requests that donations be made to the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation through the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

LeRoy was an exemplary citizen in many ways, and we are all better off by having had the privilege of knowing and working with him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

ॐ

Remembering Peggy Kahn

Peggy Kahn, 64, of Cedarhurst, New York, and Sandisfield, Massachusetts, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2010. She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Steven Kahn; her children Jarrod and Jenna Kahn, Jaymee and Robert Hurvitz; her grandchildren Henry, Ava, Jake, and Olivia; her mother Arlyne Mittman; her brother, Evan Mittman, and his wife, Debi; sister-in-law Laurie Kanter and her husband Jeff. Peggy, a caring friend and loving family member, devoted many years to special education rights. Services were held on Thursday, December 23, at "The Riverside," 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, New York City.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Saturday, January 8: *Full Signal*, documentary film on cellular technology issues, 7:30 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Free; see p. 10.

Thursday, January 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, January 15:

Intergenerational book discussion group will discuss *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Preceding this, at 6:30 pm, there will be a reading of the children's picture book *Listen to the Wind*, followed by a discussion for students in grades 4–7 of the young reader's edition of *Three Cups of Tea*. Everyone welcome. See p. 6.

Lenox Contra Dance, Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street, Lenox, 8 to 11:30 pm, with music by The Russet Trio, and Quena Crain calling. $10 adults, $5 students. Go to www.Lenox-ContraDance.org for directions, info, bad weather cancellations.

Monday, January 17: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Wednesday, January 19: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Dr. Andrew Cort will speak on meaning and purpose in contemporary American culture. See p. 8.

Saturday, January 22: Contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, caller Joe Baker. All dances taught; beginners & children welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Info 528-9385.

Tuesday, January 25: Planning Board Public Hearing on proposed Telecommunications Bylaw, 7 pm, Monterey Town Hall. See p. 6.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support encourages us and makes it possible for us to publish our community paper.

Steve Moore & Wendy Jensen
Kenneth & Laurel Kahn
Melissa Hochstetler
Mary G. Landor
Glenn Heller
Alyssa Gelbard
John Schmerler

The Observer
November 26–December 25

High temp. (12/1)	55°
Low temp. (12/10)	-2°
Avg. high temp.	31.2°
Avg. low temp.	15.8°
Avg. temp.	23.5°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.29 in.
Snowfall	16.6 in.

Precipitation occurred on 20 days.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Rachel Arnow, p. 5; Maureen Banner, p. 6; George Emmons, p. 16; Tristian Goik, pp. 10, 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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